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ABSTRACT

This report investigated the characteristics of summertime recreationists in northeastern New Mexico. A description of the area was given including the physical and economic characteristics. Data were gathered through a modified random sampling procedure. A prepared questionnaire was distributed to recreationists at 13 sites in New Mexico. The results were classified according to geographic origins, distance traveled, travel time, areas visited, recreation activities, party size, frequency of visits, length of stay, income of recreationists, changes in activities with changes in income, and essential facilities or resources. The appendix included the sample questionnaire. (BRB)

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CHARACTERISTICS OF RECREATIONISTS IN NORTHEASTERN NEW MEXICO

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AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION RESEARCH REPORT 209

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September 1971 Las Cruces, New Mexico

Summary

A majority of recreation parties visiting Colfax County recreation areas and other sites in northeastern New Mexico are from the neighboring states of Texas, Oklahoma, Colorado, and Arizona. Residents of Colfax County and neighboring counties made up the bulk of in-state recreationists. Cimarron Canyon and Red River are major attractions for out-of-state visitors, while Maloya and Maxwell lakes are popular with Colfax County residents.

The largest group of recreationists (20 percent) travelled from 151 to 250 miles to the area. Although local recreationists were able to travel to the recreational area of their choice within one hour, a substantial group of recreationists (20 percent) required from 11 to 20 hours. Many of the Red River visitors (26 percent) travelled 501 to 750 miles and required 11 to 20 hours (49 percent) to make the trip.

Fishing was the most popular recreation activity for adults. Fifty-one percent selected fishing as their major activity. Camping was second in importance, with 15 percent, and sightseeing was third.

Two-person parties were most numerous in the sample (36 percent), followed by four-person parties (19 percent). A one-half to one day stay was the most popular length of stay (39 percent).

The largest group of recreationists reported family incomes of $10,001 to $11,000. Only 37 parties, or seven percent of those interviewed, had incomes of $3,000 or less. The more wealthy recreationists visited Red River, Upper Cimmaron, and Capulin Mountain. A ten percent increase in income would not have changed this time spent on recreation, according to 63 percent of the respondents. A half or more of the recreationists at Capulin Mountain and Conchas Lake felt they would have spent more time sightseeing and fishing if incomes were increased ten percent. Four out of five recreationists indicated that even a 25 percent increase in income would not have influenced them to change to another type of recreation activity.

Water and sanitary facilities were thought to be most essential at most recreation sites. Natural facilities or resources such as trees, mountains, lakes, and streams were highly rated.

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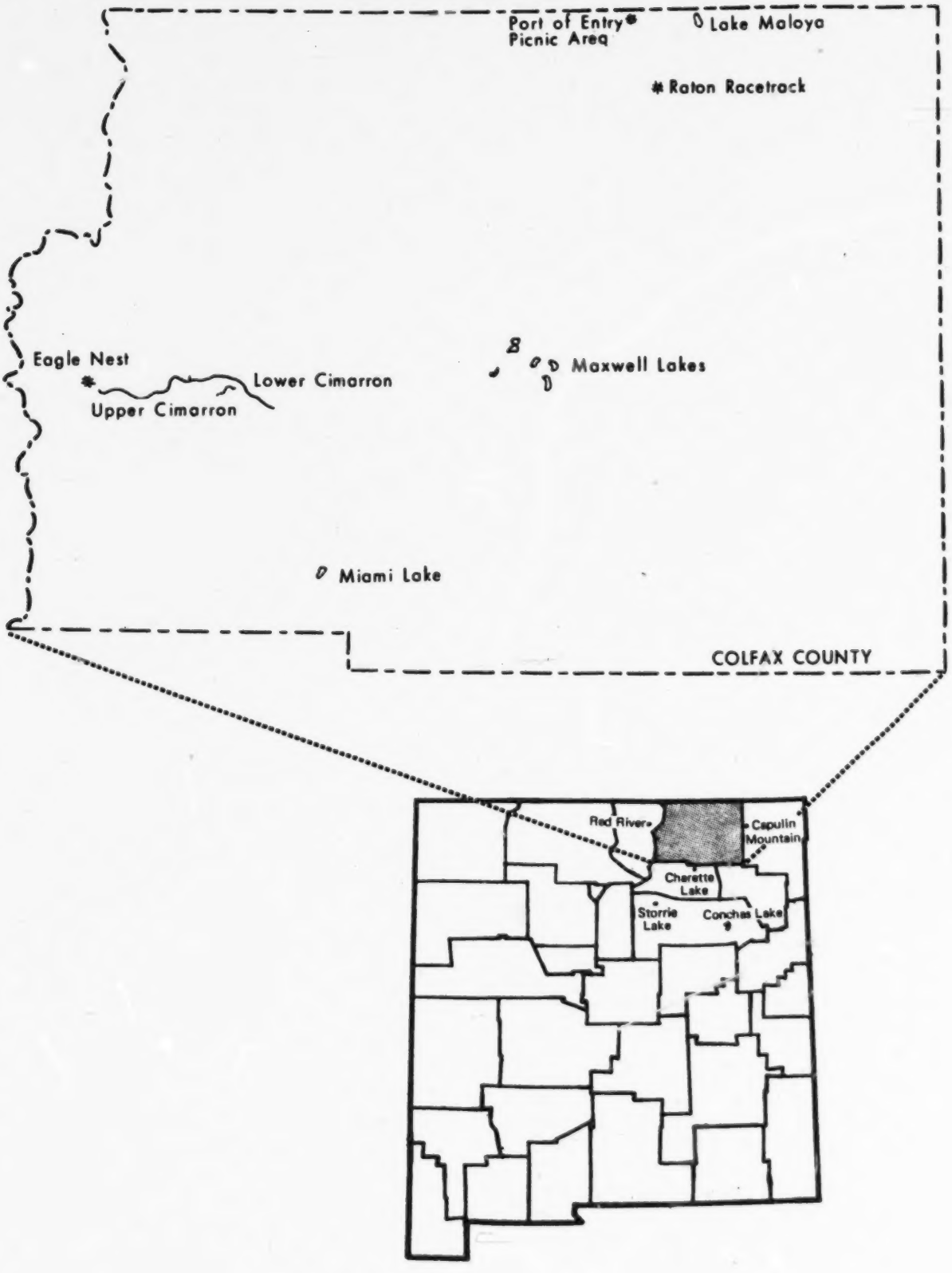
Fig. 1. Recreation sites surveyed in and near the study area



CHARACTERISTICS OF RECREATIONISTS IN NORTHEASTERN NEW MEXICO

James R. Gray and Thomas J. Blair

Professor and Former Research Assistant
Department of Agricultural Economics and Agricultural Business

Tourism is a major industry in New Mexico. State and local government units are actively promoting this industry, particularly along the two major interstate routes that criss-cross the state. This promotional effort has been handicapped by a lack of information about recreationists–where they are from, what they do while in the state, how long they stay, and what they desire in terms of facilities.

This preliminary report mainly deals with characteristics of recreationists. A part of the report deals with facilities or resources that are considered absolutely essential by recreationists. Information of these types can be used to plan promotional programs. The information can also be used as guides for further development of recreational resources.

Description of Area

Location of Area

The areas studied are in Colfax County and five adjacent areas (figure 1) in northeastern New Mexico. Red River is a major recreation area adjacent to the western boundary of Colfax County. Storrie Lake, lying 55 miles to the southwest, and Conchas Lake, 132 miles to the southeast, were studied because they compete for recreationists using facilities in Colfax County. Capulin National Monument and Charette Lake, just to the east and south of the county, were also studied because they can be considered as a part of the recreational facilities of the county.

Physical Characteristics

The southeastern half of Colfax County extends into an undulating plains area, while the northwestern half encompasses the foothill and mountain area of the Rocky Mountain front. An interstate highway separates the two areas. Recreation sites are scattered mainly in the foothill and mountain areas of the north and west. These portions of the county include natural resources that lend themselves well toward increased recreational development. Besides the mountain and canyon topography that appeals to recreationists, several creeks and one river flow through the area.

Economic Characteristics

Land ownership consists of a large national forest, large tracts of privately-owned lands based on original Spanish land-grant boundaries, and small, scattered sections of state-owned lands.

Colfax County can be characterized as economically depressed. The county does not have the socio-economic problems found in the tri-ethnic counties to the west and south. The county had a population of 11,670 in 1970. Over the previous

decade (1960-1970), the county lost more than 15 percent of its population. Its labor force of about 4,900 persons in 1969 was 5.0 percent unemployed, or slightly above the national average. The economy has been largely agriculturally oriented; cattle ranching and forest product industries are the major resource-based industries in the county.

Methods Used

A modified, stratified random-sampling procedure was used for gathering information. The strata were the 13 recreation sites selected for study. Data were gathered by means of personal interviews with a prepared questionnaire (Appendix). The sites were selected at random without replacement, stratified by weekend days and weekdays (table 1). The more popular sites (major areas in or near county), based on information from local community leaders, pre-survey observations, and data accumulated by state and federal recreation agencies, were sampled twice as heavily as the less popular sites (minor areas). Areas more than 50 miles from the county boundaries were sampled once on a weekend and once on a weekday. Single visits were made also to areas in which recreationists spent long periods of time. An attempt was made to interview all persons visiting the recreation site on the days selected for interviews at that site. Since it was impossible to interview all persons attending the racetrack, individuals were interviewed at the track before and after the races on an informal contact basis.

Interviewing took place from June through August in 1969. As a result, the data are representative of summer-time recreational activities.

Results

Geographic Origins

A majority of recreation parties are from the neighboring states of Texas, Oklahoma, Colorado, and Arizona (table 2). Residents of Colfax County and neighboring counties made up the bulk (32 percent) of the in-state recreationists. A large number of recreation parties from neighboring states (102 parties) visited the Lower Cimarron and Red River areas. Maloya and Maxwell lakes were popular with Colfax County residents.

The 13 areas selected for study were grouped into three major types of areas—camping and related activities, lake fishing, and sightseeing. Areas in the camping category, including picnicking, were Lower Cimarron, the Port of Entry picnic area, and Upper Cimarron. Areas in the lake fishing category were Charette Lake, Conchas Lake, Eagle Nest Lake, Lake Maloya, Maxwell Lakes, Miami Lake, and Storrie Lake. Areas in the sightseeing category, which included a wide range of activities, were Capulin Mountain, La Mesa Racetrack, and Red River.

Table 1. Results of random sampling scheme by area and major type of activity, Colfax County and vicinity

Area	Days of Sampling: Weekdays	Days of Sampling: Weekend days	Completed Questionnaires	Major Types of Activities
	- - - - number - - - -			
Major Areas				
Lower Cimarron	5	1	77	Camping, picnicking, fishing
Upper Cimarron	4	2	67	Camping, picnicking, fishing
Red River	4	2	55	Camping, picnicking, fishing
Eagle Nest Lake	6	1	28	Fishing, boating
Lake Maloya	4	2	71	Fishing, picnicking
La Mesa Racetrack	0	4	35	Horseracing
Minor Areas				
Charette Lake	2	2	27	Fishing, camping
Maxwell Lakes	2	2	34	Fishing, boating
Miami Lake	2	2	22	Fishing, picnicking
Capulin Mountain	2	2	36	Sightseeing
Port of Entry picnic area	2	2	36	Picnicking, touring
Single Visits				
Storrie Lake	1	1	22	Fishing, boating, picnicking
Conchas Lake	1	1	20	Fishing, boating, camping
Totals	35	24	530	

Table 2. Geographic origin of recreational parties in 1969 by area, Colfax County and vicinity

Area	Numbers of Parties from--										
	New Mexico					Other states					
	Colfax County	Neighboring counties	Northwestern counties	Northeastern counties	Southern counties	Neighboring states	Other southwestern states	Northwestern states	Other plain states	Eastern states	All Parties
	number										
Capulin Mountain	2	0	0	0	0	19	0	1	5	9	36
Charette Lake	2	17	1	1	1	5	0	0	0	0	27
Conchas Lake	1	9	0	2	1	3	1	0	0	4	20
Eagle Nest Lake	3	2	0	0	0	22	0	0	1	0	28
Lake Maloya	43	4	1	3	1	15	1	0	1	2	71
La Mesa Racetrack	11	2	0	0	0	20	1	0	0	1	35
Lower Cimarron	2	5	0	5	1	54	2	0	2	6	77
Maxwell Lakes	21	10	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	34
Miami Lake	4	6	0	5	0	7	0	0	0	0	22
Port of Entry picnic area	2	1	0	0	0	27	1	0	2	2	36*
Red River	0	3	0	1	0	48	2	0	1	0	55
Storrie Lake	0	14	0	2	0	3	1	0	0	2	22
Upper Cimarron	5	3	0	2	0	53	2	0	1	1	67
Total	96	76	2	21	4	277	12	1	13	27	530
Percent of Total	18	14	**	4	1	53	2	**	2	6	100

*Includes one party from Europe
**Less than 0.5 percent

Colfax County and other in-state recreationists most frequently visited areas with lake fishing (table 3). Recreationists from neighboring states visited the major camping areas, while visitors from other states visited camping and sightseeing areas equally.

Distance Travelled

The one-way distance travelled varied from 0 to over 1,501 miles (table 4). The largest group travelled from 151 to 250 miles. Five percent of the parties travelled over 1,500 miles. Recreationists visiting the Capulin Monument, the Port of Entry picnic area, and Red River travelled the largest distances. Lake Maloya visitors tended to travel the smallest distances.

Recreationists visiting lake areas travelled the least, while the largest number of parties engaged in sightseeing activities travelled from 501 to 1,000 miles (table 5). Most recreationists visiting camping sites travelled from 101 to 500 miles.

Table 3. Geographic origin of recreational parties in 1969 by types of areas, Colfax County and vicinity

Major Types of Areas	Number of Parties from--			
	Colfax County	Other counties in New Mexico	Neighboring states	Other states
	number	number	number	number
Camping[1]	9	17	134	20[2]
Lake fishing[3]	74	80	56	14
Sightseeing[4]	13	6	87	20
Total	96	103	277	54
Percent of total	18	20	52	10

[1]Lower Cimarron, Port of Entry picnic area, and Upper Cimarron
[2]Includes one party from Europe
[3]Charette Lake, Conchas Lake, Eagle Nest Lake, Lake Maloya, Maxwell Lakes, Miami Lake, and Storrie Lake
[4]Capulin Mountain, La Mesa Racetrack, and Red River

Table 4. Distances travelled one way by recreationists in 1969 by area, Colfax County and vicinity

Area	Number of Parties by Distances Travelled One Way												All Recreationists
	0 to 10 miles	11 to 25 miles	26 to 50 miles	51 to 100 miles	101 to 150 miles	151 to 250 miles	251 to 350 miles	351 to 500 miles	501 to 750 miles	751 to 1,000 miles	1,001 to 1,500 miles	1,501 miles and over	
	number												
Capulin Mountain	0	1	2	0	0	7	2	3	5	4	6	6	36
Charette Lake	0	1	1	1	2	18	2	1	1	0	0	0	27
Conchas Lake	0	0	2	0	0	10	2	0	1	0	1	4	20
Eagle Nest Lake	1	0	2	1	2	6	6	4	5	1	0	0	28
Lake Maloya	20	24	3	1	1	7	1	5	3	1	1	4	71
La Mesa Racetrack	11	2	1	0	1	9	1	3	4	1	1	1	35
Lower Cimarron	0	0	0	3	2	16	15	11	17	4	4	5	77
Maxwell Lakes	6	3	13	2	2	5	2	0	0	0	1	0	34
Miami Lake	0	2	0	9	2	7	0	2	0	0	0	0	22
Port of Entry picnic area	0	4	0	0	0	6	2	5	5	6	4	2	36
Red River	0	1	0	0	0	3	10	5	23	9	4	0	55
Storrie Lake	4	1	0	5	6	2	1	0	0	0	1	2	22
Upper Cimarron	0	0	0	5	3	10	17	16	11	1	4	0	67
Total	42	39	24	27	21	106	61	55	75	29	27	24	530
Percent of total	8	7	5	5	4	20	12	10	14	5	5	5	100

Table 5. Distance travelled one way by recreationists in 1969 by type of area, Colfax County and vicinity

Major Types of Areas	Number of Parties Travelling--			
	0 to 100 miles	101 to 500 miles	501 to 1,000 miles	Over 1,000 miles
	number	number	number	number
Camping[1]	12	102	47	19
Lake fishing[2]	102	97	11	14
Sightseeing[3]	18	44	46	18
Total	132	243	104	51
Percent of total	25	46	19	10

[1]Lower Cimarron, Port of Entry picnic area, and Upper Cimarron
[2]Charette Lake, Conchas Lake, Eagle Nest Lake, Lake Maloya, Maxwell Lakes, Miami Lake, and Storrie Lake
[3]Capulin Mountain, La Mesa Racetrack, and Red River

Travel Time

The one-way travel time by parties visiting recreation sites in the study area varied from one hour to over 30 hours (table 6). The largest number was able to travel to the site of their choice in one hour. A large group required from 11 to 20 hours. Many of the recreational parties visiting Red River required 11 to 20 hours of travel as did many recreationists visiting Lower Cimarron. Maxwell Lakes and Lake Maloya tended to be patronized by many residents living close by these sites.

When travel times were grouped together into categories of from 0 to 4 hours, 5 to 8 hours, 9 to 20 hours, and over 20 hours, 43 percent of the recreationists were able to reach their destinations in four hours or less (table 7). The largest group of parties visiting camping areas required from 9 to 20 hours to reach their destinations, while most parties visiting lake areas were able to reach the lakes in four hours or less. Sightseeing areas were reached either in four hours or less, or from 9 to 20 hours by most recreationists visiting these areas.

Areas Visited

Most recreationists (331) visited sites only in northeastern New Mexico (table 8). However, a large number (108) visited out-of-state recreation sites as well as those in northeastern New Mexico. Over half of the recreationists visiting the Port of

Table 6. Travel time of recreationists in 1969 by area, Colfax County and vicinity

Area	Number of Parties Reporting One Way Travel Time of--													
	One hours	Two hours	Three hours	Four hours	Five hours	Six hours	Seven hours	Eight hours	Nine hours	Ten hours	11 to 20 hours	21 to 30 hours	Over 30 hours	All Parties
	number													
Capulin Mountain	3	0	3	7	0	0	0	2	1	1	10	6	3	36
Charette Lake	3	2	0	9	10	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	27
Conchas Lake	2	0	6	5	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	2	3	20
Eagle Nest Lake	3	1	3	2	5	2	0	2	2	2	6	0	0	28
Lake Maloya	49	2	1	2	1	1	1	3	0	2	2	1	6	71
La Mesa Racetrack	14	0	3	8	1	1	0	1	1	1	4	0	1	35
Lower Cimarron	3	3	4	4	15	2	4	5	2	7	20	3	5	77
Maxwell Lakes	24	0	5	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	34
Miami Lake	7	3	5	3	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	22
Port of Entry picnic area	4	0	3	2	2	1	1	2	0	1	15	3	2	36
Red River	1	0	2	1	1	8	4	3	1	3	27	3	1	55
Storrie Lake	6	8	0	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	1	2	22
Upper Cimarron	3	4	2	3	13	10	2	2	1	7	17	3	0	67
Total	122	23	37	49	52	27	14	23	8	25	104	23	23	530
Percent of total	23	4	7	9	10	5	3	4	2	5	20	4	4	100

Table 7. Travel time of recreationists in 1969 by types of areas, Colfax County and vicinity

Major Types of Areas	Number of Parties Reporting One-Way Travel Times of--			
	Zero to four hours	Five to eight hours	Nine to 20 hours	Over 20 hours
	number	number	number	number
Camping[1]	35	59	70	16
Lake fishing[2]	154	36	18	16
Sightseeing[3]	42	21	49	14
Total	231	116	137	46
Percent of total	43	22	26	9

[1]Lower Cimarron, Port of Entry picnic area, and Upper Cimarron
[2]Charette Lake, Conchas Lake, Eagle Nest Lake, Lake Maloya, Maxwell Lakes, Miami Lake, and Storrie Lake
[3]Capulin Mountain, La Mesa Racetrack, and Red River

Table 8. Areas visited by recreationists in 1969 by area, Colfax County and vicinity

Area	Number of Parties Reporting Areas Visited of--				Number of Parties Reporting Primary Reason for Visits of--	
	This area only	Other areas in county	Other areas in state	Other areas out of state	Recreation	Business
	number					
Capulin Mountain	8	2	5	24	31	5
Charette Lake	25	2	0	0	26	1
Conchas Lake	12	0	3	6	19	1
Eagle Nest Lake	21	5	1	3	27	1
Lake Maloya	60	3	7	5	65	6
La Mesa Racetrack	31	0	1	4	28	7
Lower Cimarron	43	16	13	12	75	2
Maxwell Lakes	29	3	2	1	34	0
Miami Lake	14	7	5	1	20	2
Port of Entry picnic area	5	5	3	27	29	7
Red River	31	1	5	18	55	0
Storrie Lake	17	1	2	2	21	1
Upper Cimarron	35	16	22	5	67	0
Total	331	61	69	108	497	33

Entry picnic area, as expected, were enroute to other recreation sites. Likewise, visitors to Capulin Monument were on tours involving visits to other out-of-state areas. Recreationists interviewed at Upper and Lower Cimarron tended to visit other areas in the county and other areas in the state.

Almost all groups interviewed (497 groups) indicated that recreation was their primary reason for being in this area.

Recreation Activities

Fishing was the most popular activity in the study area (table 9), with 51 percent of all adults in the sampled recreation parties reporting this as their major activity. Camping was second in importance, with 15 percent, and sightseeing was third with 13 percent. These three activities were the first choices of 78 percent of the adult recreationists. However, sightseeing was the major choice at Capulin Monument and the Port of Entry picnic area.

Party Size

Thirty-six percent of the parties consisted of two persons, with four-person parties (19 percent) being next in importance (table 10). Seventy-seven percent of all parties had four persons or fewer. Lake Maloya was visited mainly by one- and two-person parties, while 55 percent of the parties visiting Conchas Lake had from five to nine persons per party. La Mesa Racetrack party size resembled Lake Maloya party size.

Two-thirds of the recreation parties visiting the study area had from two to four persons per party (table 11). Only five percent of the parties were groups of more than eight persons. Fourteen percent of the parties visiting lake fishing and sightseeing sites were single persons, while only four percent of the parties visiting camping sites were single persons.

Frequency of Visits

Fifty-seven percent of the parties visited the selected site only once in 1969 (table 12). Nineteen parties reported visiting Lake Maloya 20 or more times during 1969.

Length of Stay

A one-half to one day stay was reported by 39 percent of the recreationists (table 13). In general, the percentage of parties declined as length of stays increased. Recreationists visiting Capulin Monu-

Table 9. Recreation activities reported[1] in 1969 by sites, Colfax County and vicinity

Activity	Number of Parties Reporting Activity at--														
	Capulin Mountain	Charette Lake	Conchas Lake	Eagle Nest Lake	Lake Maloya	La Mesa Race-track	Lower Cimarron	Maxwell Lakes	Miami Lake	Port of Entry Picnic Area	Red River	Storrie Lake	Upper Cimarron	Total No.	Total %
	number														
Fishing	1	23	9	26	46	4	42	31	17	6	18	11	36	270	51
Skiing (snow)	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	5	0	1	9	2
Camping	6	0	2	0	3	2	19	1	0	3	21	3	18	78	15
Hunting	1	3	0	0	9	2	0	0	3	0	6	0	0	19	3
Hiking; mountain climbing	1	0	0	0	1	0	5	0	0	0	0	1	3	11	2
Sightseeing	23	0	1	0	3	1	8	0	0	23	5	1	5	70	13
Horseracing	4	0	0	0	4	24	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	33	6
Skiing (water)	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	5	1
Boating	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	2	0	7	1
Swimming	0	0	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	6	1
Picnicking	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	1	1	1	1	8	2
Other[2]	0	1	0	1	2	1	1	0	0	1	5	0	3	15	3
Total	36	27	20	28	71	35	77	34	22	36	55	22	67	530	100

[1]First choice of adults

[2]Card playing, football, baseball, scouting, motorcycling, horseriding, rodeo, dancing, archaeology, and golfing

Table 10. Sizes of recreation parties in 1969 by area, Colfax County and vicinity

Area	Number of Parties Reporting Party Size of--										
	One person	Two persons	Three persons	Four persons	Five persons	Six persons	Seven persons	Eight persons	Nine persons	Ten persons or more	All Parties
	number										
Capulin Mountain	1	11	7	12	5	0	0	0	0	0	36
Charette Lake	0	13	7	3	2	1	0	1	0	0	27
Conchas Lake	0	4	3	2	4	4	1	1	1	0	20
Eagle Nest Lake	2	15	3	4	2	2	0	0	0	0	28
Lake Maloya	16	32	4	8	8	0	0	2	0	1	71
La Mesa Racetrack	14	16	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	35
Lower Cimarron	4	20	4	21	10	8	2	2	3	3	77
Maxwell Lakes	5	18	4	4	2	0	0	0	1	0	34
Miami Lake	2	11	4	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	22
Port of Entry picnic area	3	9	4	11	2	4	1	2	0	0	36
Red River	1	12	9	12	8	3	3	3	1	3	55
Storrie Lake	6	6	5	2	1	0	1	0	0	1	22
Upper Cimarron	0	21	7	17	8	6	6	1	0	1	67
Total	54	188	65	101	53	28	14	12	6	9	530
Percent of total	10	36	12	19	10	5	3	2	1	2	100

Table 11. Sizes of recreation parties in 1969 by types of areas, Colfax County and vicinity

Major Types of Areas	Number of Parties Reporting Sizes of--			
	One person	Two to four persons	Five to eight persons	More than eight persons
	number	number	number	number
Camping[1]	7	114	52	4
Lake fishing[2]	31	156	21	17
Sightseeing[3]	16	84	22	6
Total	54	354	95	27
Percent of total	10	67	18	5

[1]Lower Cimarron, Port of Entry picnic area, and Upper Cimarron
[2]Charette Lake, Conchas Lake, Eagle Nest Lake, Lake Maloya, Maxwell Lakes, Miami Lake, and Storrie Lake
[3]Capulin Mountain, La Mesa Racetrack, and Red River

Table 12. Frequency of visits by recreationists in 1969 by sites, Colfax County and vicinity

Area	Frequency of Visits as Reported by--											
	One party	Two parties	Three parties	Four parties	Five parties	Six parties	Seven parties	Eight parties	Nine parties	Ten to 19 parties	20 or more parties	All Parties
	number											
Capulin Mountain	31	3	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	36
Charette Lake	14	4	1	2	2	1	1	1	0	1	0	27
Conchas Lake	10	2	3	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	20
Eagle Nest Lake	13	6	2	1	3	0	0	1	0	1	1	28
Lake Maloya	25	2	1	4	1	4	2	1	0	12	19	71
La Mesa Racetrack	12	1	5	1	1	0	1	1	0	5	8	35
Lower Cimarron	59	8	4	0	2	1	0	1	0	0	2	77
Maxwell Lakes	6	1	4	0	4	1	1	0	0	7	10	34
Miami Lake	6	6	1	0	3	2	0	1	0	1	2	22
Port of Entry picnic area	28	2	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	36
Red River	45	6	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	55
Storrie Lake	9	3	2	2	1	0	1	0	0	2	2	22
Upper Cimarron	41	11	7	4	0	1	0	0	0	2	1	67
Total	29?	55	33	18	17	11	7	6	0	36	48	530
Percent of total	57	11	6	3	3	2	1	1	0	7	9	100

Table 13. Lengths of stay by recreationists in 1969 by area, Colfax County and vicinity

Area	Number of Parties Reporting Length of Stay in Days of--											
	One-half day	One day	Two days	Three days	Four days	Five days	Six days	Seven days	Ten days	Ten to 28 days	More than 28 days	All Parties
	number											
Capulin Mountain	24	8	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	36
Charette Lake	1	6	13	3	1	0	0	0	0	2	1	27
Conchas Lake	1	5	3	1	2	3	1	2	1	1	0	20
Eagle Nest Lake	4	3	9	7	1	0	0	1	2	0	1	28
Lake Maloya	23	10	5	1	2	0	1	4	0	0	25	71
La Mesa Racetrack	2	12	7	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	11	35
Lower Cimarron	3	17	7	6	10	9	3	9	4	6	3	77
Maxwell Lakes	6	12	7	2	1	0	0	0	0	1	5	34
Miami Lake	3	5	6	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	4	22
Port of Entry picnic area	29	3	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	36
Red River	2	0	6	8	14	3	2	5	6	8	1	55
Storrie Lake	4	6	5	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	2	22
Upper Cimarron	3	13	7	16	8	4	5	7	3	1	0	67
Total	105	100	75	50	42	20	14	31	18	21	54	530
Percent of total	20	19	14	9	8	4	3	6	3	4	10	100

ment, Lake Maloya, and the Port of Entry picnic area tended to stay less than a half day at these sites. Recreationists visiting Lower and Upper Cimarron and Red River tended to stay three or more days. Approximately the same number of recreation parties stayed one day as stayed a half day.

One day or less outings were more popular than two to five day stays in the study area (table 14). However, more recreationists visiting camping and sightseeing areas spend two to five days at these sites than a single day or less. The reverse situation occurred among recreationists visiting lake fishing sites.

Income of Recreationists

Recreationists were asked to indicate family gross incomes in $1,000 increments. The largest group indicated income from $10,001 to $11,000 (table 15). Only 37 parties, or seven percent of the sample, had incomes of $3,000 or less. On the other hand, 30 parties reported incomes of more than $20,000. The middle group, or those with incomes of from $3,001 to $20,000, were 87 percent of the total. Forty-nine percent of the recreationists had family incomes of from $3,001 to $10,000, while the remaining 38 percent had incomes of from $10,001 to $20,000.

Table 14. Lengths of stay by recreationists in 1969 by types of areas, Colfax County and vicinity

Major Types of Areas	Number of Parties Reporting Lengths of Stay of--			
	One day or less	Two to five days	Six to ten days	More than ten days
	number	number	number	number
Camping[1]	68	71	16	11
Lake fishing[2]	114	75	32	42
Sightseeing[3]	23	41	15	22
Total	205	187	63	75
Percent of total	39	35	12	14

[1]Lower Cimarron, Port of Entry picnic area, and Upper Cimarron
[2]Charette Lake, Conchas Lake, Eagle Nest Lake, Lake Maloya, Maxwell Lakes, Miami Lake, and Storrie Lake
[3]Capulin Mountain, La Mesa Racetrack, and Red River

Table 15. Incomes* of recreationists in 1969 by area, Colfax County and vicinity

Income	Number of Parties Visiting the Areas of--														% of Total
	Capulin Mountain	Charette Lake	Conchas Lake	Eagle Nest Lake	Lake Maloya	La Mesa Race-track	Lower Cimarron	Maxwell Lakes	Miami Lake	Port of Entry Picnic Area	Red River	Storrie Lake	Upper Cimarron	Total	
	number														
Less than $1,000	2	0	0	0	5	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	2	12	2
$1,001 to $2,000	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	6	1
$2,001 to $3,000	1	2	0	1	5	1	1	3	0	1	1	2	1	19	4
$3,001 to $4,000	1	1	1	1	10	3	4	3	1	2	2	3	1	33	6
$4,001 to $5,000	2	2	1	2	9	5	4	2	3	4	4	1	3	42	8
$5,001 to $6,000	2	2	1	6	5	2	7	6	3	2	1	1	4	42	8
$6,001 to $7,000	2	4	1	3	9	4	4	4	0	1	3	0	7	42	8
$7,001 to $8,000	6	2	3	1	4	3	3	2	1	2	2	0	8	37	7
$8,001 to $9,000	0	1	3	1	3	3	7	4	1	3	2	4	7	39	7
$9,001 to $10,000	0	3	0	2	3	3	6	1	0	1	5	2	3	29	5
$10,001 to $11,000	4	3	1	4	4	3	9	3	4	2	6	0	6	49	9
$11,001 to $12,000	1	1	1	0	1	1	2	2	0	1	4	0	3	17	3
$12,001 to $13,000	3	2	2	0	4	2	2	0	3	3	2	1	5	29	5
$13,001 to $14,000	4	0	1	1	1	0	6	0	0	3	5	1	1	23	4
$14,001 to $15,000	2	3	0	1	5	0	1	0	0	2	2	1	2	19	4
$15,001 to $16,000	2	1	1	1	0	0	6	1	1	2	4	0	3	22	5
$16,001 to $17,000	1	0	0	1	0	0	2	1	1	1	0	2	1	10	2
$17,001 to $18,000	0	0	1	1	0	0	3	0	1	1	1	1	1	10	2
$18,001 to $19,000	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	1	0	1	1	0	2	8	2
$19,001 to $20,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	**
More than $20,000	3	0	1	1	2	3	5	0	1	1	8	1	4	30	6
Would Not Report	0	0	1	2	0	0	2	1	0	1	2	1	2	10	2
Number of Interviews	36	27	20	28	71	35	77	34	22	36	55	22	67	530	100

*Family incomes

**Less than 0.5 percent

No specific patterns of incomes were noted at most recreation sites. However, almost all recreationists visiting La Mesa Racetrack had incomes of $13,000 or less. A more wealthy group visited Red River, Upper Cimarron, and Capulin Mountain.

Changes in Activities with Changes in Income

Recreationists were asked to indicate anticipated changes in the amount of time spent in recreation activities if their family incomes were to increase

by ten percent. Sixty-three percent indicated a ten percent income increase would not affect the time spent in recreational activities (table 16). More time would have been spent by recreationists at Capulin Mountain and Conchas Lake if their incomes were increased by ten percent.

Recreationists were also asked to indicate if they felt the type of recreation activity would change if they experienced a 25 percent increase in their family incomes. Approximately four in five, or 81.3 percent, indicated they anticipated no change.

Essential Facilities or Resources

In planning recreation developments, decisions must be made as to which kinds are suitable to the area, or which kinds will be demanded, and how many of each kind can or will be installed. In some cases, facilities or resources cannot be provided (mountains) or only with extreme difficulty (lakes and streams). However, most facilities mentioned require moderate amounts of labor and capital.

No attempt was made to accumulate responses for all areas because the areas in many cases were unique. However, water and sanitary facilities were mentioned by most recreationists as essential (table 17). These consisted of water hydrants, toilets, garbage cans, and sewage dump areas. Natural features such as trees, mountains, and streams were rated highly. A problem in the area was noted by a large group in their recommendation for zoned fishing and water skiing areas.

Table 16. Proportions of recreationists in 1969 anticipating changes in recreation activities with changes in income levels by recreation sites, Colfax County and vicinity

Area	Proportion of Parties Reporting Changes With--				
	Ten percent income increase			Twenty-five percent income increase	
	Same time	Less time	More time	Same type of activity	Different type of activity
	percent	percent	percent	percent	percent
Capulin Mountain	44.4	2.8	52.8	72.2	27.8
Charette Lake	70.4	0.0	29.6	81.5	18.5
Conchas Lake	50.0	0.0	50.0	65.0	35.0
Eagle Nest Lake	57.1	0.0	42.9	89.3	10.7
Lake Maloya	70.4	7.0	22.5	91.5	8.5
La Mesa Racetrack	80.0	0.0	17.1	80.0	20.0
Lower Cimarron	61.0	0.0	39.0	76.6	23.4
Maxwell Lakes	52.9	5.9	41.2	79.4	20.6
Miami Lake	72.7	0.0	27.3	77.3	22.7
Port of Entry picnic area	61.1	2.8	36.1	83.3	16.7
Red River	76.4	1.8	21.8	83.6	16.4
Storrie Lake	63.6	4.5	31.8	77.3	22.7
Upper Cimarron	59.7	4.5	35.8	85.1	14.9
Simple Average	63.2	2.3	34.5	80.2	19.8

Table 17. Proportions of parties in 1969 by sites indicating types of facilities or resources as being "absolutely essential" by area, Colfax County and vicinity

Type of Facility	Proportion of Parties Reporting Facilities or Resources as being "Absolutely Essential" at--												
	Capulin Mountain	Charette Lake	Conchas Lake	Eagle Nest Lake	Lake Maloya	La Mesa Race-track	Lower Cimarron	Maxwell Lakes	Miami Lake	Port of Entry Picnic Area	Red River	Storrie Lake	Upper Cimarron
	percent												
Water Hydrant	72	59	85	7.	70	74	62	62	50	78	75	77	70
Water Hook-up	19	53	45	39	37	31	31	15	27	47	79	55	28
Electric Hook-up	25	30	65	43	38	34	36	21	23	42	36	55	28
Sewer Hook-up	25	33	35	36	38	31	30	18	23	39	25	41	19
Shower (public)	39	22	65	36	24	29	40	15	32	39	56	41	43
Pit Toilets (public)	81	100	50	89	92	60	78	88	86	78	73	73	90
Flush Toilets (public)	53	30	85	46	41	46	38	29	36	67	44	64	46
Automatic Laundry	17	11	20	36	13	31	17	18	14	19	36	18	15
Picnic Tables	86	81	100	86	90	71	79	94	77	92	78	77	87
Grills	67	81	70	86	86	63	64	85	73	75	62	77	78
Garbage Cans	94	96	100	93	100	83	91	97	91	100	87	100	97
Security Patrol	72	85	85	79	77	71	78	65	64	72	73	86	90
Separate Picnic Area	44	19	35	64	39	43	34	24	32	36	40	27	46
Campground Closed at Night	28	4	35	21	27	14	13	6	5	22	11	27	27
Swimming Area in Lake	50	48	75	39	28	49	40	41	41	56	47	73	43
Swimming Pool	33	0	25	29	25	31	9	12	5	42	16	0	16
Concession Stand	36	67	50	43	31	31	13	21	18	28	16	32	12
Fishing Adjacent to Area	39	81	60	71	62	54	60	59	55	64	53	68	66
Nature Trails	86	33	55	61	56	51	49	21	41	64	55	50	64
Motels	33	15	20	46	15	49	16	9	14	44	16	14	16
Lodge	28	15	20	46	20	49	17	9	14	39	15	9	15
Cabins	36	22	20	46	23	49	21	12	23	42	22	14	15
Sewage Dump Pit	64	59	55	64	68	69	56	53	45	64	58	68	69
Horseback Riding	47	37	45	46	58	34	30	18	14	47	45	41	31
Bicycle Trails	25	22	30	32	34	20	12	9	18	19	35	14	25
Dancing Areas	19	11	25	32	25	46	10	12	9	8	25	14	9
Lake	86	89	100	86	90	71	84	94	77	92	80	100	90
Trees	86	85	85	86	92	71	90	97	77	94	95	100	93
Mountains	86	85	55	82	90	71	88	88	77	92	93	91	93
Reservation System	50	33	40	61	31	49	35	26	18	44	27	36	22
Screened Shelters	44	56	50	57	35	43	26	41	18	50	22	32	18
Playground	47	48	70	64	58	54	31	41	27	61	38	64	48
Ball Diamond	11	26	15	36	28	23	10	21	14	22	11	18	6
Volleyball Courts	8	26	15	36	27	20	8	18	14	22	11	14	4
Marina	36	44	75	61	35	57	21	26	27	33	29	36	25
Dry Storage for Boats	14	30	55	39	25	29	13	26	27	22	11	27	19
Slips	28	41	80	50	45	51	25	38	32	31	25	41	24
Pier	31	41	80	57	49	43	26	32	27	31	29	45	27
Launching Ramps	39	70	80	57	48	57	29	50	36	36	44	55	28
Repair Shop	31	26	80	54	20	49	17	26	9	31	22	32	21
Restaurants	47	33	38	61	25	57	26	18	23	56	40	27	30
Zoned Fishing Areas	69	52	90	82	72	69	77	68	23	69	62	82	84
Zoned Waterski Areas	69	48	90	82	72	69	77	68	73	69	60	77	82
Reserved Hunting Areas	53	44	50	57	55	49	47	44	23	50	55	41	66
Guides	11	15	35	54	31	34	19	12	14	31	31	14	31
Boat Rentals	47	74	80	64	62	51	40	41	27	47	36	55	54
Paved Roads	72	63	75	75	77	57	60	62	82	83	69	73	70
Streams	89	85	60	86	92	63	94	76	77	89	91	91	96
Other	15	12	40	21	14	35	22	15	9	17	33	19	21

Appendix

Questionnaire Sample

Record No. _____

NEW MEXICO STATE UNIVERSITY
Department of Agricultural Economics and
Agricultural Business

COLFAX COUNTY RECREATION STUDY

Recreational Area_____ Date of Interview_____

Analysis Code_____ Interviewer_____

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Have you been interviewed previously by the Experiment Station in this area? Yes_____ No_____

2. Where is your home?_____
City State

3. How far is your home from this area in miles?_____
In travel time?_____(hours or days)

4. How many persons are in your family party?_____

5. How long will you be here in this area?_____(hours or days)

6. Is this the only place to be visited on this trip? Yes_____ No_____.
If "No", list other places and time spent at each.

Places Visited	Time (hours or days)
a._____	_____
b._____	_____
c._____	_____
d._____	_____
e._____	_____

7. How often will you visit this area for the period January 1 through December 31, 1968?_____
Is the number of visits this year typical of past years? Yes_____
No_____. If "No", explain_____
_____
_____

8. What is the primary purpose of your trip? (recreation, business, etc.)
_____
If the purpose is other than recreation, how many miles did you drive for recreational purposes?_____

9. What is the make and model of car used on this trip?

_____ _____
Year Make

II. TYPE OF RECREATION

10. Rank the recreational activities participated in in this area this year (1 signifies first choice):

Activity	Adults	Children	Activity	Adults	Children
Camping			Auto Racing		
Picnicking			Riding, auto		
Boating			Riding, bikes		
Water skiing			Motorcycling		
Fishing			Riding, horse		
Swimming			Rodeos		
Hunting			Hiking		
Skiing, snow			Nature study		
Archery			Playground		
Golf			Dancing, out-doors		
Tennis			Racing, horse		
Baseball			Other_____		
Softball					
Football			Other_____		
Volleyball					
Horseshoes					

11. What would you and your children like to do that you either are not doing or not doing enough of in this area if facilities were available? (List in order of preference)

Activity	Adults	Children	Activity	Adults	Children

12. Indicate the period of the year (month(s)) you prefer to engage in your top five activities:

Activity	Period of year	
1.	From	to
2.	From	to
3.	From	to
4.	From	to
5.	From	to

13. Name the areas (portions of New Mexico or other states) that would have been your second choice had you not come to this area:

_____

_____

14. What features of the Colfax County area are superior to those the area of your second choice?_____

_____

15. What features of the Colfax County area are inferior to those of the area of your second choice?_____

_____

III. MINIMUM FACILITIES SECTION

16. Please indicate your opinion of the desirability of each of the facilities in the following list:

Facility	Not Necessary	Preferable	Absolutely Necessary
1. Water hydrant			
2. Water hook-up facility			
3. Electric hook-up facility			
4. Sewer hook-up facility			
5. Showers, public			
6. Pit toilets, public			
7. Flush toilets, public			
8. Automatic laundry			
9. Picnic tables			
10. Grills			
11. Garbage cans			
12. Security patrol			
13. Separate area for picnickers			
14. Campground closed at night			
15. Swimming area in lake			
16. Swimming pool			
17. Concession stand			
18. Fishing adjacent to campground			
19. Nature trails			
20. Motels			
21. Lodge			
22. Cabins			
23. Sewage dump pit			
24. Horseback riding facilities			
25. Bicycle trails			
26. Dancing area			
27. Lake			
28. Trees			
29. Mountains			
30. Reservation system			
31. Screened shelters			
32. Playground			
33. Ball diamond			
34. Volleyball court			
35. Grandstand			
36. Marina			
37. Dry storage for boats			
38. Slips			
39. Pier			
40. Launching ramp			
41. Repair shop			
42. Restaurants			
43. Zoned fishing areas			
44. Zoned water skiing area			
45. Reserved hunting area			
46. Guides			
47. Boat rentals			
48. Paved road			
49. Streams			
50. Other_____			

IV. INVESTMENTS IN RECREATIONAL EQUIPMENT

17. What is your original investment in the following equipment used on this trip to this area?

a.	Tent	$_____
b.	Camping trailer or camper	$_____
c.	Sleeping bags and equipment	$_____
d.	Stoves, lanterns, cooking utensils	$_____
e.	Special clothing	$_____
f.	Boats and motors	$_____
g.	Boating equipment including trailers	$_____
h.	Fishing tackle	$_____
i.	Rifles and hunting equipment	$_____
j.	Binoculars	$_____
k.	Cameras and other photo equipment	$_____
l.	Horses and other riding equipment	$_____
m.	Motorcycles, bicycles, motorscooters	$_____
n.	Other (indicate)_____	$_____
o.	Other (indicate)_____	$_____

V. ADDITIONAL EXPENDITURES THIS TRIP

18. The additional expenditures made this trip above that which would have been spent had you stayed home were:

a.	Lodging	Additional	$_____
b.	Food and refreshments		
	(1) Cafes	Additional	$_____
	(2) Groceries	Additional	$_____
	(3) Bars and package goods	Additional	$_____
	(4) Other	Additional	$_____
c.	Rental of equipment	Additional	$_____
d.	Fees	Additional	$_____
e.	Licenses	Additional	$_____
f.	Bait and lures	Additional	$_____
g.	Ammunition	Additional	$_____
h.	Fuel for boat	Additional	$_____
i.	Travel costs	Additional	$_____
j.	Other (indicate)_____ _____	Additional	$_____
k.	Other (indicate)_____ _____	Additional	$_____

VI. PERSONAL DATA SECTION

19. Are you married? _____ Yes _____ No

20. What is your race? _____White _____Black _____Red _____Yellow

21. What is your major ethnic origin (e.g. German, Jewish, African, etc.) _____

22. What is your sex? _____Male _____Female

23. What is the age of the husband_____? Of the wife_____? Of other adults living with family _____, _____,_____? Of the boys in the family _____, _____, _____, _____? Of the girls in the family _____, _____, _____, _____?

24. How many people are living together in your household?_____

25. What is the occupation of the husband? _____
What is the occupation of the wife? _____
What is the occupation of others working? _____
_____
_____

26. How many hours worked per week by the husband? _____
How many hours worked per week by the wife? _____
How many hours worked per week by others? _____

27. How many weeks of vacation are had, or if self-employed, how many weeks are taken? By the husband?_____ By the wife?_____
By others? _____, _____

28. How many years of schooling has been had by the following:
By the husband?_____, By the wife? _____, By other adults? _____, _____

29. Did the state of health of any adult member of the household prevent general participation in outdoor activities for most of last year?
_____ Yes _____ No

30. Did the state of health of any of your children prevent general participation in outdoor activities for most of last year?
_____ Yes _____ No

31. Did any member of the household have a disability that kept them from engaging in outdoor recreation most of last year?
_____ Yes _____ No

32. Where was the husband reared?
a. Farm or ranch _____
b. Town of less than 2,500_____
c. City of 2,500 to 10,000_____
d. City of 10,000 to 50,000_____
e. City of 50,000 to 100,000_____
f. City of 100,000 to 250,000_____
g. City of 250,000 and over_____

33. Where was the wife reared?
a. Farm or ranch_____
b. Town of less than 2,500_____
c. City of 2,500 to 10,000_____
d. City of 10,000 to 50,000_____
e. City of 50,000 to 100,000_____
f. City of 100,000 to 250,000_____
g. City of 250,000 and over_____

34. What was your total household income in 1967? This includes wages, salaries, business profits, net farm income, pensions, rents and any money income received by members of your household.

Yearly income

a. Under $1,000	_____	n. $13,000-$13,999	_____
b. $1,000-$1,999	_____	o. $14,000-$14,999	_____
c. $2,000-$2,999	_____	p. $15,000-$15,999	_____
d. $3,000-$3,000	_____	q. $16,000-$16,999	_____
e. $4,000-$4,999	_____	r. $17,000-$17,999	_____
f. $5,000-$5,999	_____	s. $18,000-$18,999	_____
g. $6,000-$6,999	_____	t. $19,000-$19,999	_____
h. $7,000-$7,999	_____	u. $20,000-$20,999	_____
i. $8,000-$8,999	_____	v. $21,000-$21,999	_____
j. $9,000-$9,999	_____	w. $22,000-$22,999	_____
k. $10,000-$10,999	_____	x. $23,000-$23,999	_____
l. $11,000-$11,999	_____	y. $24,000-$24,999	_____
m. $12,000-$12,999	_____	z. $25,000 and over	_____

35. If your present household income was increased by 10 percent next year, would the amount of time for outdoor recreation be:
About the same_____ Less than this year _____ More than this year_____

36. If your household income was increased by 25 percent next year, would you engage in outdoor recreation activities that would be:
About the same as this year_____ Different from this year_____

If different from this year, what different activities would you choose?_____
_____
_____
_____

This publication is one of the Agricultural Experiment Station's research report series, which describes results of experimental work in progress. Such research, financed by both state and federal funds, is intended to improve the efficiency of New Mexico land use and thereby augment the economy of the state.